

Stokes Breaks Long Silence To Deny He Loves a Drink

Millionaire, Replying to Wife's Charges He's a "Drug Fiend" and a "Drunk," Says He's Such a Teetotaler He Even Disfavors Tea and Coffee

W. E. D. Stokes wishes the world to know he does not desire a drug or drink cure, the name of a good sanitarium for "dopes" or a medical directory of "hop experts."

Neither does the millionaire author, hotel owner and railway head care for invitations to "week-end-jab" parties, or opportunities to dine with convivial friends.

Such are the highlights of the interview ever given to the press by Mr. Stokes. His long silence was broken, he explained, by the charges of his wife, whom he is suing for divorce, that he is a user of drugs and a heavy drinker.

As the grandson of a man who started a movement to prevent the drinking of hard liquor, Mr. Stokes and the nephew of a man who was the first president of the National Temperance Society, Mr. Stokes feels that the charges are somewhat overdrawn, he put it mildly. Not only does he know nothing of alcoholic drinks, but Mr. Stokes adds that he looks with disfavor upon tea and coffee and never has smoked. He intimated that mince pie containing rum should be made the subject of special legislation.

Wrote a Book Walloping Liquor

In order that there might be no mistake in this, his first interview in the course of an eventful life, the millionaire jotted down his thoughts and made them public through his lawyer. Here they are, just as they came from his pen:

"It has been my habit never to give interviews, but the situation as presented in the press is so seriously ridiculous, that I am forced to, for I feel keenly the unjust charge, that I am a 'drug fiend' and a 'drunk,' especially in view of the fact, that my grandfather was the originator of the American Temperance Society, which organization was started to prevent the use of liquor at entertainments, and out of it grew the National Temperance Society, of which my uncle, after whom I am named, was the first president.

"I wrote a book entitled 'The Right To Be Well Born,' which, among other things, shows the effects of liquor and drugs on heredity, and I have been told that my book aided materially in helping pass the present prohibition laws. So these accusations against me hit a double blow.

"Here I am to-day, publicly posted and advertised from one end of the country to the other as a 'drug fiend' and a 'drunk,' and I doubt if there is a man in the country who is not an absolute teetotaler, who has used less of liquor or knows less about them than I.

Even Opposed Tea and Coffee
"I very seldom even drink tea or coffee, and have never smoked. In fact, I am opposed to their use, and, as for drugs, I can remember but two occasions in my life when a drug was administered to me, on both occasions by physicians, one after an operation for the removal of my appendix in 1901, the other in 1911, after an operation for a blow on my side. I have lately gone through a most serious attack of the flu and pneumonia, and when choking from coughing, four or five drops of eucalypti were prescribed by my physicians to stimulate the action of my blood, but eucalypti is a medicine and not a drug.

"You may have my life's inner history as to drugs and can judge from this what kind of 'field' I am. As I now pass drug stores, I look in and wonder just what drug it is that I am addicted to, and as I see children and women going into Huggins' and Mirror candy stores I am guessing whether it is a coco-cola or a sundae cocktail which has made me known as a 'drunk' or 'dope fiend.'

Invited to Week-End Jab Parties
"Advertisements and booklets of the various 'drug' and 'drunk' sanitariums are being sent me by every mail. I am daily receiving invitations from some convivial friends to join them at their week-end-jab parties in Orange or Westchester County.

"My telephone rings and some man who has had the drug or drunk habit and thinks himself cured advises me just where to go and get cured and have nothing said about it.

"This is one or that one suggests this or that nurse is the best. A suggestion came from a half-cured drunk who advises that we two live together and take the 'drug cure' together. He knows just how to administer that treatment, as he has already taken it three times. And for my sake is willing to start afresh, de novo, but to insure its success and absolute cure, I must at once secure sixty bottles of the very best old whisky, which is to be locked in a closet, and he only is to have the key.

"We are to take certain libations of whisky at stated hours during the day and night, and as time progresses and the whisky grows less the daily number is to be curtailed and the doses are to grow smaller and smaller, until finally when the sixty bottles are gone we will find ourselves cured. For his experience and knowledge his charge will be only \$300 a month, his board and lodging.

Used to Take Drug Cure

"An expert on drugs, wit he now cure, desires to take me under his care to his 'home' in New Jersey. He tells me I can never be really cured, but his method is to change by drug diet each day until I have become acquainted

and accustomed to all drugs, and then he gives me a drug known as 'Hash-lah.' This is something entirely different from the East Side boarding house hash. It is hash which grows in India, and after I earn to take 'Hash-lah' morphine, cocaine, heroin, busine and the other drugs which names I have never heard before will have no attraction for me and my life will become one lovely dream. This expert confides to me he knows where to cure the precious 'Hash-lah' if I have the cash.

And Here Comes the Epitaph
"To tell you the truth I have learned more inside facts about drugs and liquor and their terribly sad effects on the community, within the last few days than under ordinary conditions one would have learned in a lifetime, and I am now more than ever in favor of the prohibition and anti-drug act, but I suppose I probably shall die and go down to posterity as an example of the effects of narcotics and alcoholism, with this epitaph on my headstone:

"Here lies the body of W. E. D. Stokes. Who lived on drugs and whisky. Be charitable, ye truthful folks. Prohibition killed his frisky.

"So be most careful, sinners hold. From drug acts take a warning. When dope and whisky get a hold. With wings he'll say good morning. Requiescat in hades.

"The world at large prefers to believe sensational lies rather than truths, so I will have secured this false, degrading reputation without costing me anything except what is dearest to a gentleman—his honor."

2 A. M. "Serenade" Is Warning of Millennium

Overzealous Negroes Told to Keep Their "Message" for Less Weird Hour

BALTIMORE, Nov. 17.—"The Lord is coming! The end of the world is here! Prepare!"

Negro residents of the 1,100 block Carrollton Avenue were aroused from their sleep at 2 a. m. by knocking on their doors and the voices of a group of "inspired" individuals who went from door to door with the "message." Patrolman Kock, who is not easily impressed, happened along when the shouts had reached the degree of yells. He found that Lottie Sims, Evelyn Sims and James Sims and Rusty Williams, all negroes, formed the delegation, making the announcement, and got them to go to Northwestern Police Station with the tidings.

There the quartet explained they had been aroused by a desire to warn the world that another great war was about to begin and that the Lord was coming. Each started out to meet the others unexpectedly. Impressed with the "inspiration" they started on the 1,100 block of Carrollton Avenue. They did not explain why they were paid by a man said to represent the "Church of the Holy Sanctification." Baltimore News.

Justice Brendel cautioned them against too much religious fervor and fined each \$2.45. They were paid by a man said to represent the "Church of the Holy Sanctification." Baltimore News.

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American Red Cross Is Aiding in Montenegro

Podgoritz Hospital Being Enlarged to Take Care of Many Sufferers

PODGORITZA, Nov. 8.—A gift of \$20,000 made by the Junior Red Cross of America for hospital and educational work in Montenegro is being utilized here. The Podgoritz hospital, of seventy beds, established some months ago by the American Red Cross, and which has been daily turning away enough patients to fill 500 beds, is being enlarged immediately. Two additional wards in the beautiful grounds of Prince Mirko's palace are being added to the hospital. A section of the hospital will be devoted especially to the treatment of children.

To the only boys' school in Podgoritz there is being added a large dormitory barracks. Hundreds of mountain boys, eager for education, tramp into Podgoritz to attend this school, but they do not have money for lodging and so they must sleep in barns or open fields. After school they walk up and down the roads studying, regardless of the weather. The dormitory will accommodate all those boys, and will be within a stone's throw of the school.

For the younger boys, mostly orphans who live about the marketplace, a school colony is being built. It is a small group of buildings in which the boys will sleep, be fed, be taught lessons and given vocational training. Just as soon as this colony has been organized and is functioning well it will be turned over to some Montenegrin relief organization to operate.

Other work, dispensary service, soup kitchens and education of the public in matters of personal and social hygiene, will be carried on all winter.

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Copies can be made to order at short notice

(Salon on the Third Floor)

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offers many suggestions for charming holiday gifts. Among them are:

Ostrich Feather Fans, in every wanted color and many unique designs, artistically—and some of them superbly—mounted. The prices range from \$13.50 to 350.00.

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Opera Glasses, in Pompadour, Marquise and Duchesse designs; some of leather, others of enamel or mother-of-pearl. Various priced, \$16.50 to \$50.00.

War Revenue tax additional.
(First Floor, Madison Avenue section)

Misses' Sports Suits

for the Winter Resort Season

Some very charming models have been received, and more are arriving almost every day. Among them are Paris originations expressing extremely novel ideas in style and color.

Sports Suits for present wear are shown in an interesting assortment which specially features recent originations modeled in cheviot, polo and jersey cloths and imported tweeds.

(Misses' Suits, Second Floor)

A Monday Sale of

Lingerie Undergarments

(all American-made) will offer a generous assortment of attractive styles (some in broken sizes) at considerable concessions from regular prices.

Included will be

Nightrobes . . . \$1.50, 1.95, 2.90
Chemises . . . 1.45, 1.90, 2.95
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(Sale on the Second Floor)

An Interesting Display of Women's White Sports Skirts

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(Third Floor)

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Everyone is better satisfied with the gift that is purchased under favorable conditions—the giver, who accomplishes an onerous task without haste and without worry; and the recipient, who can easily distinguish the difference between the article that is selected thoughtfully and with discrimination and that secured in the turmoil of the "last-minute rush."

RITAWELLMAN

is an affinity with May Sinclair, Theodore Dreiser and Joseph Hergesheimer, according to The Philadelphia Press, in her just published novel THE WINGS OF DESIRE. MOFFAT YARD AND COMPANY, 31 Union Square West, New York (Publishers of Johan Bojer)

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